

3 May 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Paul Nitze, 2 May 1977

Paul Nitze phoned me and said that he had met in New York with a number of Chinese including their military man, a Mr. Hsu and the Ambassador. At the meeting the Chinese did most of the questioning and focused on these points:

1. What was the purpose of the Committee on the Present Danger? Who was in it? How strong was it? What did it do? Nitze said he answered most of these questions using information which was in the public domain.

2. The Chinese sought his views on the Moscow proposals on SALT. Nitze pointed out the importance of knocking down the myth of Soviet peace initiatives. He said he believed that Carter's recent proposals had deflated the Soviets and had caused the Soviet high level outrage and anger.

3. The Chinese sought his view of naval trends and balance between the super powers. The Chinese view was that the trend was clearly in the Soviet favor. Nitze told the Chinese that they underestimated the U.S. and gave his reasons.

4. The Chinese were critical of the ability of the free world to cope with Soviet hegemony in Africa. Nitze pointed out to the Chinese their track record on Africa was not that good.

5. Taiwan never came up.

6. The Chinese did not invite Nitze to go to China nor did he request a trip. They invited him to see them again anytime he was in New York City. They asked him if he would



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procure SAIS publications for them. He asked my advice and I told him not to do it. I told him to write the Chinese and give them SAIS' address and let them get the publications themselves.

7. Nitze said he appreciated our earlier briefing and that it was helpful in dealing with the Chinese.

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for China

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